



**The role of the regions in russian-turkish economical relationship at the present stage  
(based on the example of the republic of tatarstan)**

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**Abstract**

Since the early 2000s, Russian-Turkish economical relations have developed dynamically. The contractual and legislative basis of economic cooperation between the two countries has about 20 agreements. The Republic of Tatarstan, being one of the most economically developed subjects of the Russian Federation, actively participates in international cooperation to promote economic growth, attract investment, technology and strengthen scientific, educational and cultural contacts. Turkey is a key partner of the Republic's economy, so the role of Tatarstan for the development of Russian-Turkish relationship is very important. The methodological basis of the presented work is the principles of systematization and description of available information, its analysis, then explanation, comparison and generalization of existing data, making conclusions. The involvement of regions in development of political, cultural and other relations caused by the understanding that in an increasingly interdependent world there should be a joint decision of questions of development for international stability, cooperation and prosperity. The materials of this paper can be of use for researchers of Russian-Turkish international relations, history and politics, lecturers, academics.

**Key words:** Tatarstan, Russian-Turkish relationship, economy, region, regionalism.



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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

By the end of the 20th century it can be noticed a significant transformation of international relations. The conditions and prospects for the development of the state's external relations stay under the influence of international situation, the state foreign policy; a complex of geopolitical, economic and social factors. Nowadays international relations, through the globalization and interdependence of the countries, affect the interests of many participants, they are multilateral and involve more than two parties in discussing and solving international problems. Involvement of regions in the sphere of international relations, which for a long time belonged to the exclusive competence of the state, became very important question and requires analysis, development of theory and practice in the system of international cooperation [1].

According to Committee of the Regions of European Union, regions and cities play crucial role in implementing and influencing policy, regions are key economic and political actors that couldn't be ignored [2]. In EU, analysis of regions' is a major issue, there are many studies on the subject, there are many new regional platforms that help to maximize their growth and innovation of the regions, to strengthen their competitive edge, to concentrate efforts and resources on specific priorities, which in turn will provide technological, scientific and economical development of the country in whole [3].

In Russia, particularly in Tatarstan, concepts and phenomena related to the region, studied by large group of sciences, "regionalization" and "regionalism" commonly are opposed to globalization, regarded as a complementary mechanism, perceived as the condition of transformation and interaction of states, analyzed within the study of federalism.

The analysis of these problems on the example of the Republic of Tatarsan makes contents of this article.

## **2 METHODS**

Analyzing the Russian-Turkish and Tatar-Turkish relations in the period of research, allows presenting an objective academic picture of the development of the international cooperation and role of the regions on the example of Tatarsan. The methodological basis of the presented work is scientific objectivity, the principles of historicism and systematization, analysis of specific situations, description of them, their comparison and generalization.

## **3 RESULTS**

Throughout its history, Turkish-Russian relations were rather complicated. Undergoing significant change, this relationship has varied from war to peace agreements, from confrontation to cooperation. Economy, trade and energy, remained the main areas of cooperation and in the current environment



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have a positive impact on political relations. It's safe to assume that Russian-Turkish relations will be transformed in the future and that requires constant research work in this direction.

Significant indicators of Russian-Turkish relations between 2002-2017 give reason to say that trade and economical cooperation have developed in a durable way of bilateral, which has good prospects for further development. Investment partnership is one of the most dynamically developing spheres of bilateral foreign economical relations. The main area of cooperation is relationship in the sphere of fuel and energy complex. It is possible to identify a number of emerging and promising areas of cooperation between the two countries in this area: energy trade, trade of electricity, execution of contracts for the construction of energy facilities (supply of equipment and services), mutual investments in the energy sectors of both countries, cooperation of Russian and Turkish companies in energy projects in third countries. At the same time, it would be wrong to ignore the problematic nodes between the two neighboring states. The crisis with the downed plane, political and economical disagreements in the following causes the serious problems between two countries [4]. In any case, economic cooperation between the two countries was on the whole effective and mutually beneficial, and in some cases, strategically important, talking about energy relations, which constitute the backbone of the bilateral partnership [5].

Tatarstan is one of the leading and industrialized and innovative regions of Russia. Two years consecutively, the Republic of Tatarstan was a leader in the Russian national rating of investment climate. Various forms of international contacts of regions exist in almost all democratic countries with federative system. In the Russian Federation the Republic of Tatarstan has more than twenty five years of experience in the development of external relations. With the acceptance of the Declaration on the state sovereignty (1990) and the Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan (1992) the international activity of the Republic purchased the systemized form. The Republic of Tatarstan, being one of the most economically developed actor, also participates actively in the strengthening of the scientific, educational and cultural contacts of the Russian Federation [6].

Today Turkey is one of the leading partners of Tatarstan in trade-economic and investment cooperation. The 16% of the volume of Turkish investments in Russia are implemented in Tatarstan [7]. Tatarstan is interested in Turkish business and in its further projects in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan.

Every region has a different set of economic assets [11], a unique capacity to innovate, its own crop of entrepreneurs, and its own opportunities in global markets [8]. Regions have numerous instruments and tools at hand to contribute to resource efficiency improvements. Regions also can encourage inter-municipal and inter-regional cooperation on resource efficiency. Furthermore, regional and



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local authorities also play an important role in overcoming lock-ins associated with inefficient resource use on regional and local scale, in order to ensure that region's economic activities are more sustainable and future-proof [9]. But at the same time as mentioned above, regions have significant limitations of competency in the field of international relations, that's why regions traditionally implement their policy in line with national foreign policy. At the same time there are some specifics in the practice of international cooperation, the positive value of the international activities of the regions was acknowledged, because it reinforces the welfare of the population; stimulate the economic, political and cultural development. Tatarstan effectively uses external resources to address development challenges and make a real contribution to the formation and implementation of a multi-vector foreign policy of the Russian Federation [7].

International relations of the republic are carried out in accordance with the basic principles of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation, based on Russian and international legal norms, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

### **4 DISCUSSION**

The involvement of regions in international relations complicates the process of governance and leads to the need to reflect a wider range of domestic interests in the formulation and implementation of national foreign policy. Regional policy in Russia as a multinational and multiconfessional federation requires constant adjustments to take account of the effects of international integration, as well as the totality of political, economic, ethno-cultural and other factors that have a significant impact on regional development.

World experience shows that ethno-religious boundaries in society cannot be erased with the time. The forcible unification of social values, even on background of increasing economic integration and growing global interdependence, leads to disruption of the stability, the weakening of political power, loss of relying on historically developed institutions. The growing problem of global interfaith and inter-civilizational relations focuses on increasing the contribution of the regions in their development, formation and implementation of cultural policy in multi-ethnic and administrative-territorially non-uniform state.

### **5 SUMMARY**

At different stages of modern history, Tatarstan attracted international attention, being at the center of key social and economic events. This can be said about the period of the formation of statehood in the Russian Federation, the efforts of the state authorities of the republic to reduce the negative consequences of the state's transition to a market economy [4].



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Within the scope of its competence, the Republic of Tatarstan forms the legal and regulatory framework for external relations, provides support to the state authorities as large enterprises when working out long-term international projects and expanding sales markets, and small and medium-sized businesses, consulting and training, presentations and various businesses commission, introduction of innovative developments and production of competitive products.

Modern Russia is a unique state in its extent and regional patchiness. The regions of the Russian Federation are integral components of several civilized communities of Europe, Islamic world etc. From this point of view, the activities of Tatarstan in the sphere of science, culture and education plays an important role in strengthening geopolitical influence in the country [8].

The diversity of the modern world reveals itself in the sphere of interreligious relations. Confessional space affects social relations. States are increasingly expressing interest in a particular model religious component of political practice not only at national but also at international level [8]. Tatarstan enhances the development of cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue in order to overcome alienation and conflict between the different ethnic groups, cultures, faiths.

Russian-Turkish relations in all spheres are the constant object of research for scholars. Through the study of works on economical cooperation between Russia and Turkey, it can be concluded that there is a significant amount of materials that sheds light on the positions of these countries in their foreign policy and its economical side. Role of the region in the development of relations between two countries alongside economical part of foreign policy gives an opportunity of further research works on this subject.

### **6 CONCLUSIONS**

It can be concluded that in the current context of increasing interdependence, issues of international cooperation are of great importance for the regions of the state. A characteristic feature of the relationship in the world system was the regional level of international relations, which, in turn, was reflected in legal and institutional mechanisms. Under modern conditions the regional level is an integral part of international relations and influences the bilateral relations, methods of implementation of policy, construction of diplomacy etc. The regionalization of international relations is also positive from the point of view of the formation of new dimensions, to strengthen cooperation between states [4].

Tatar-Turkish cooperation is developing within the framework of the intergovernmental agreement on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation of May 22, 1995. Foreign trade turnover, export and import of services, investment, projects, cooperation in many areas - all this, of



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course, is an important factor and potential for Russian politics, the economy and other areas in general.

It is noteworthy that in period of the deterioration of relations due to the downed plane Tatarstan has made every effort to keep joint projects and cooperation in the promising areas of cooperation. When the conflict between Russia and the Republic of Turkey was settled, the Tatarstan-Turkish cooperation continued to develop.

The results of this research confirms the results of Ulchenko, Bingol, Starchenkov's research work that Turkey seeks to improve political and economic relations with Russia. The two countries' cooperation in the different fields has acquired so constructive that was to contribute to convergence of views and mutual rapprochement. This theme is also confirming the results of research works on the theme of regionalism (Boyko), dialogue between civilizations (Sadykova), role of the regions (Nasyrov).

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